

## AGRICULTURAL HINTS

## WORKING THE ROADS.

Farmers Can Well Afford to Devote Their Time to This Task.

Much has been said and written about country roads and the proper way to construct them to insure good ones the year round. But much of it applies only where gravel or crushed stone can be obtained with which to make a road bed unaffected by rains and standing water. In many sections of the country gravel can be had by hauling it from creek and river beds, and where it can be so obtained or purchased at a low figure the best possible use of time and money is in securing and spreading this upon a road bed previously graded into the proper form. If the gravel is dumped upon a perfectly flat surface it becomes mixed with the soil during wet weather and soon is lost. The first thing to be done is to grade the road. The graveling or macadamizing can then be done at leisure. The upper illustration shows the best form of the road. The dirt from the ditches at the sides is carried to the middle and left in a rounded form, highest in the center. Care must be taken to make the sides slope all the way from the center to the bottom of the ditches, or the water will stand in the sags and percolate into the roadway, making it soft and muddy. Make good outlets for these ditches to carry the water off and keep the road dry, and also that they may serve for outlets for tile and for all other farm drains.

Keep the surface of the road smooth and free from ruts, for those traveling will not make martyrs of themselves and bump over the rough places to wear them down if the sides are smooth.



THE NEW AND THE OLD WAY.

Leave the sods on one side. They will decay in a year or two. A large amount of road work can be done in a short time with comfort to man and beast, by using one of the improved road graders. Four men with their teams make a good force; one man and team for the plow, the others for the grader. It will pay any town handsomely to invest in the most improved machinery for road work. When grading the road, be careful not to get the grade too wide. Make it just wide enough for teams to pass. It will flatten out with use and wet weather.

A great aid in keeping the road dry is a row of tiles laid on either side at the outer edges of the grade. These should not be laid too deep, for the surface will become packed so that the water will not readily soak through. But if the grade is the proper form the water will run off the surface so rapidly that comparatively little will soak in; and as the tile and laying them add largely to the cost of the road they may usually be dispensed with. All doubtless realize the truthfulness of the lower illustration and the difficulty of getting about over such highways, the loss of time and money, the wear and tear of horses, harnesses and wagons resulting from attempts to move loads at the very season when farmers have the most time to do such work. In the summer when the farmers are busy with their crops, the roads are usually dry and any kind is good enough. The low price for which farm lands sell is due in a large measure to the poor highways. With better roads the value of the lands rapidly increases. Examples of this can be found in every county. Farms located along good, hard roads are in constant demand at prices far in excess of those situated at a distance from such roads. Wherever other work will permit, farmers can well afford to give a few days' work on the roads instead of feeling it a hardship to have to work the time required by law. Work them thoroughly, each neighborhood for itself. The labor and time spent will return 100 fold in the increased value of property and in the ease and comfort of traveling. — Farm and Home.

## ORCHARD AND GARDEN.

One item in renovating an old orchard is to provide good drainage. Generally grapes give a good return for the land and labor required to grow them.

Wood ashes make a good fertilizer for strawberries, raspberries, currants and grapes.

Many injurious insects winter among the dead leaves and branches. The safest plan is to gather up and burn them.

On warm soils the buds of fruit trees often start early and are liable to be nipped by frost. Mulching heavily in the fall or early winter will largely prevent this.

It is not best to dig the hole for the tree any deeper than the tree is to be planted, otherwise it will stand in a puddle of water. — St. Louis Republic.

## Kill Off the Poor Calves.

If the calf is not a good one, it would be better to knock it in the head and feed it to the chickens rather than raise it for the dairy. It does not cost five cents more to raise a good calf than it does a poor one, and the cow that will make 300 pounds of butter a year has eaten no more up to the time she drops her calf than one that will make only 150. There is not a fortune in the dairy business at any event, but if we raise calves from poor cows from which to make up our future herd there is a loss. — National Stockman.

## REALLY GOOD MILKERS.

They Are By No Means as Numerous as They Should Be.

Almost anybody can milk after a fashion, but really good milkers are not as plenty as they might be. A good milker is patient and gentle of touch, not only incapable of lifting a milking stool at a cow, but wise enough and thoughtful enough never to show an irritability or harshness of manner that might excite or disturb a nervous animal. Milking should be done as rapidly as possible without worry. It should be done thoroughly to the last drop; otherwise a little milk carelessly or unintentionally left in the udder will begin the work of "drying off" the cow. Milking should be done regularly, beginning at the same hour, and the milker should go through his stint of cows in the same order, thus making it easier and less disturbing for the cow that from habit knows when to expect her turn. To the good milker, cleanliness is indeed next to godliness. The hands should be clean, the clothing clean, and the skin and udders of the cows should be kept clean. Hard milking cows are much less valuable than their yield or test would at first blush seem to indicate. They require more time. Once in awhile this might be endured, but when the milking is a test that recurs regularly twice a day for 300 days in the year, it becomes an important item.

It is hard to milk with the rapidity that good milking requires, and it is difficult, too, to milk as clean as the maintenance of the milk flow requires, and hard milkers are much more liable, other things being equal, to fall off in milk flow and dry off early. They become nervous, too, as a rule, and very frequently develop into kickers. They are not perhaps to blame for this. The milking disturbs them and makes them irritable, and they naturally come to resent anything that irritates them. Their irritation reacts, too, upon the person who does the milking, and he in turn is liable to be less valuable as a milker because less patient and gentle. Good milking bears so important a relation to the best results which constitute profit, as compared with results not quite so good, that it is a faculty which everyone who has to handle cows should cultivate. There is more in the cheerful, good-humored, picturesque milkmaid idea than mere poetry. The cheerful, wholesome, womanly milkmaid is, as a rule, much more likely to harmonize with the disposition of a good milk cow than is the ruder and less patient farm hand. — Western Farm Journal.

## DAIRY ESSENTIALS.

Summarized by R. A. Pierson, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

A roomy, clean, dry, light and well-ventilated stable or cow house. To produce good milk, cows must be comfortable, and these conditions not only add to their comfort, but are absolutely necessary to keep them in the best of health.

Healthy and clean cows, which appear well-fed and contented.

An abundance of pure water to which cows are given access at least twice a day.

Feed of good quality; the grain and coarse fodder should be free from dirt, decay, or a musty condition.

A spirit of kindness toward the stock, exhibited by everyone employed about them, and gentleness of the animals themselves.

Provision for washing and sterilizing or scalding all utensils which come in contact with milk.

Provision for straining, aerating and cooling the milk in a clean atmosphere, free from all stable and other odors. This treatment should take place immediately after the milk is drawn from each cow.

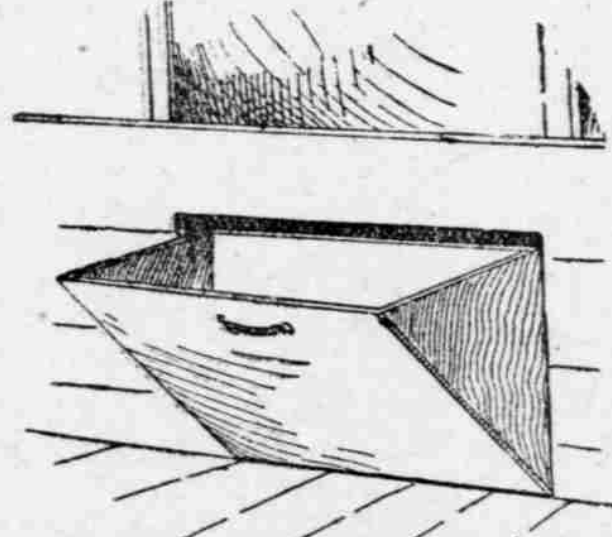
Facilities for storing the milk and keeping it cold.

Especially great cleanliness in regard to everything connected with the dairy. The atmosphere of the stable should be pure and free from dust when milking is being done. Employees should carefully wipe the udders and wash their hands before milking, and should be in clean clothes. White-wash is a good disinfectant, and should be seen in many more stables, and land plaster should be sprinkled about to absorb moisture and odors. — Farm News.

## SWINGING CATTLE CRIB.

Description of a Convenient Contrivance of This Kind.

There are almost as many varieties of cattle cribs as there are individual farms in the country, and it is not too



## SWINGING CATTLE CRIB.

much to say that a very great proportion of these cribs are inconvenient. Many are dark and one must reach over into them when feeding a grain ration, at the risk of encountering the horns of the animal to be fed.

A convenient swinging crib is shown in the accompanying illustration. It is triangular in shape and is hinged at the point at the bottom just on the edge of the feeding floor. When swung forward into the feeding floor, as shown, it is in a most convenient position to fill with hay, or to place in it a grain ration. It is then tipped back into the space before the animal and is entirely out of the feeding floor, and in a most convenient position for the animal to eat from. The bottom of this crib is a three-cornered piece of timber. This gives rigidity and prevents there being a narrow space at the bottom, into which an animal could not get his nose. — N. Y. Tribune.

## POISON IN ROSES.

Scratches from Thorns Often Cause Unpleasant and Painful Sores.

"Be careful and do not scratch your hands with the thorns on those roses. They are poisonous and the scratches means painful and unsightly sores."

The speaker was the wife of a well-known florist on Wabash avenue. She was exhibiting to a customer a lot of American Beauty roses and had laid a large bunch on the counter. The customer in his enthusiasm attempted to take them in his hands, when he received a warning.

The florist's wife held out her hands. They were covered with a dozen or more large round spots, whose angry red color showed how painful they must have been.

"My husband's hands are as bad as mine, and we have both suffered greatly. American Beauties have not done well this year, and the growers, in order to kill insects or in some way to help the growth of the flowers, have sprayed them liberally with a substance that contains more or less poisonous matter. If the stems are carefully washed there is not much danger in handling them. But we do not always have time to do that, and in less than a week after the Beauties began coming into market our hands were in the condition in which you see mine now."

"Does the same danger exist in all roses?" inquired the customer.

"Not always," was the reply. "But it is safer," she continued, "to avoid being scratched by rose thorns in any case. Of course, nothing more serious than an ugly sore results, but that is bad enough."

Just then the florist himself came in and corroborated the statement made by his wife. He said there was more trouble from poison in rose thorns this year than ever before, and it was owing to the fact that insects were unusually troublesome. He always warned his customers to be very careful, and he washed the stems of all roses before they were sent out. He added that there was sometimes danger in eating rose leaves and people ought to drop the habit. He had known women, he said, to have sore mouths from eating the leaves of flowers that had been sprayed with poisonous substances.

While the danger is not present in all the flowers that one buys of the florist, it is wise to be careful to avoid scratches and to stop eating rose leaves if one would be entirely on the safe side. — Chicago Tribune.

## BOTH FOOD AND POISON.

Something About Tapioca That You May Not Know.

Some of the plants that poison man are very curious. Many persons are poisoned if they merely pass near where the plant is growing or if the wind happens to be blowing in their direction. There is a plant in the West Indies so poisonous that if the rain-drops fall from it upon a man's skin great blotches immediately arise. Some of these plants do their deadly work very silently by sending a numbness through the entire body, while others cause terrible convulsions.

There is a curious plant, a native of South America, that poisons or nourishes us according to the part of it we use. It is called the manioc, or cassava. Thousands daily eat preparations of this plant without knowing anything of its strange properties.

There are two principal species spoken of by botanists, the bitter cassava and the sweet cassava. Both are highly important sources of food starches. The bitter cassava has been introduced into most of the tropical regions. It is cultivated in the East Indian archipelago, in Brazil and in nearly all the states of South America.

This plant is a shrub, which grows to the height of six or eight feet. Its roots are very large, often weighing 30 pounds. They grow from three to eight in a cluster, generally one or two feet in length. The root, as well as the rest of the plant, contains an acrid, milky juice, which is so poisonous that it will cause death in a few minutes; but as this poisonous acid may be destroyed by heat, the juice, thickened by boiling, forms an excellent sauce called cassia-reep.

The root, when grated or pounded into pulp, is placed under a heavy pressure. The poisonous juice is thus squeezed out. It is then dried and forms what is known as cassava bread; or it may be heated and stirred on metal plates, when it forms the well-known tapioca, which is sold in all our stores and served up in hotels, restaurants and on our family tables as tapioca pudding.

From the bitter cassava root many different kinds of food preparations are made in Brazil. The roots are preserved for use by being cleaned, sliced and dried, and from them manioc or cassava meal is prepared by rasping. Thus, we see, life or death comes to us from this plant according as we know how to use it. — Philadelphia Times.

## Judging Distances.

A lady happened to remark to an athletic friend that it was very strange that most of the bad bicycling accidents seemed to happen to women—and could he account for it—were they more "foolhardy?" "Not at all," he replied; "the real reason is, I think, that women cannot judge distances. Now, from her earliest youth up a boy is trained through his games to accurately measure yards and feet. You will see a woman rush in between two carts where a man could tell you to a certainty that it would be impossible to avoid an accident. It is just the want of a trained eye that does the mischief." — Philadelphia Ledger.

## It's His Relatives That Catch It.

Peak—The way of the transgressor is hard.  
Joak—True; but the trouble is, it's generally hard on somebody else. — N. Y. Truth.

## PECULIARITIES OF MILLIONAIRES.

Use Halfpenny Stamps and Have a Poor Dinner.

I have been asked whether I ever receive social invitations from millionaires in open envelopes, with halfpenny stamps, and what I think of the practice on the part of the millionaires, says London Truth. It is not often that I am privileged to receive invitations from millionaires under any circumstances, but it is a remarkable fact that I have had such an invitation addressed to me at the halfpenny rate of postage, and as others have had a similar experience I suppose that millionaires as a class have a weakness for halfpenny postage stamps. Probably this weakness has something to do with their having become or remained millionaires.

A worse failing on the part of millionaires of which I have experience is that they occasionally ask their friends to dinner and sit them down to a meal quite unfit to eat. Personally, I would rather that a man took a halfpenny off the postage of my invitation and spent it on the dinner. So far as the invitation is concerned, there may possibly be many people who, when invited to the houses of millionaires, would wish the fact widely known and would prefer, if possible, that the invitation should be sent on a postcard, so that all who run may read. Perhaps it is from this kindly motive rather than from parsimony that millionaires patronize the halfpenny post. Let us think as well of Dives as we can.

## A DOCTOR WHO WAS EQUAL TO THE EMERGENCY.

From the News, Youngstown, Ohio.

An interesting little story was told your reporter recently by Mrs. F. A. Lawson, of 337 Custer avenue, Youngstown, Ohio. She had been an invalid for eighteen years and had been examined and treated by many physicians, among them the skillful Dr. A. M. Clarke. They all diagnosed the case in the same way, and all insisted that an operation was necessary, except Dr. Clarke, who maintained that proper treatment could cure her. Her entire left side was paralyzed and her heart became affected. This soon developed into true organic heart disease. In January, '93, she became so bad that she had to take to her bed for three months. No one could interest her in the part of the story. Hear what Mrs. Lawson says:

"One morning, I believe it was April 9, 1893, the doctor changed the treatment and gave me in its place a supply of pills of a peculiar pinkish color. They were pleasant to the taste. After taking several the doctor upon his next arrival was greatly surprised to find me considerably stronger and more hopeful. During my illness I read a great deal and in one paper I noticed a testimonial which had been given by a prominent government official relative to the merits of a proprietary remedy. They were called Dr. Williams' Pink Pills.

"When the doctor next called I said to him: 'Doctor, are you prescribing patent medicine to your patients now?' To this he smiled and answered: 'Well, Mrs. Lawson, whether it be patent medicine or not, just so it does you good?'

"To make a long story short, in two weeks I was able to sit up and walk after I had walked about the house. At the doctor's suggestion I bought six boxes of the pills and used them strictly according to directions. I went to the country for a month's visit, and after my recovery more quickly and was continually taking the pink pills. In two weeks' time I felt strong enough to go home; as strong as I had felt before I became afflicted, and in twenty I am as well as I was when I was twenty. I'm fifty-two years old now."

"Well, do you attribute the excellence of your health now, Mrs. Lawson, to the use of the Pink Pills?" was asked.  
"I most certainly do. I realize that had I not taken them I should long since have died. No one could help me. To show you again what good they have done me I need only say to-day I am as well as I was when I was twenty. I am as well as I was when I was twenty. I'm fifty-two years old now."

"Dr. Williams' Pink Pills contain, in a condensed form, all the elements necessary to give new life and richness to the blood and restore shattered nerves. They are also a specific for troubles peculiar to females, such as suppressions, irregularities and all forms of weakness. They build up the blood, and restore the glow of health to pale and sallow cheeks. In men they effect a radical cure in all cases arising from mental worry, overwork or excesses of whatever nature. Pink Pills are sold in boxes (never in loose bulk) at 50 cents a box or six boxes may be had of all druggists, or direct by mail from Dr. Williams' Medicine Company, Schenectady, N. Y.

No invitation, we think, ever caused quite as much talk as the telephone. — Yorkers Statesman.

OCCASIONALLY A WORM TURNS AND FINDS AN EARLY BED WAITING TO GO TO IT.

## THE MARKETS.

CINCINNATI, Jan. 11.  
LIVE STOCK—Cattle, common 2 40 @ 3 00  
Select butchers 3 40 @ 4 25  
CALVES—Fair to good light 5 50 @ 6 00  
HOGS—Common 2 75 @ 3 00  
Dressed packers 3 25 @ 3 30  
Light shippers 3 40 @ 3 55  
SHEEP—Choice 3 15 @ 3 65  
LAMB—Good to choice 4 40 @ 4 85  
FLOUR—Winter family 3 60 @ 3 90  
GRAIN—Wheat—No. 2 red 91 @ 92  
No. 2 mixed 89 @ 90  
Corn—No. 2 mixed 2 15 @ 2 16  
Oats—No. 2 1 19 @ 1 20  
Rye—No. 3 1 15 @ 1 20  
HAY—Prime to choice 12 50 @ 13 50  
PROVISIONS—Mess Pork 8 50 @ 8 75  
Lard—Prime steam 15 @ 16  
BUTTER—Choice creamery 21 @ 22  
APPLES—Per bushel 1 25 @ 1 50  
POTATOES—New, per bushel 90 @ 1 10

NEW YORK.  
FLOUR—Winter patent 4 90 @ 5 15  
GRAIN—Wheat—No. 1 north 4 90 @ 5 15  
No. 2 red 4 90 @ 5 15  
OATS—No. 2 mixed 2 15 @ 2 16  
PORK—New mess 8 25 @ 8 75  
LARD—Western 4 15 @ 4 20

CHICAGO.  
FLOUR—Winter patent 4 50 @ 4 75  
GRAIN—Wheat—No. 2 red 87 1/2 @ 88 1/2  
No. 2 Chicago spring 78 1/2 @ 79 1/2  
CORN—No. 2 22 1/2 @ 23 1/2  
LARD—Bellevue 7 75 @ 7 80  
PORK—Mess 7 75 @ 7 80  
LARD—Steam 3 90 @ 3 92 1/2

BALTIMORE.  
FLOUR—Family 4 50 @ 4 85  
GRAIN—Wheat—No. 2 2 15 @ 2 16  
Corn—Mixed 2 15 @ 2 16  
Oats—Mixed 2 15 @ 2 16  
PORK—Mess 7 75 @ 7 80  
CATTLE—First quality 4 00 @ 4 35  
HOGS—Western 3 75 @ 3 90

INDIANAPOLIS.  
GRAIN—Wheat—No. 2 88 @ 89  
Corn—No. 2 mixed 2 15 @ 2 16  
OATS—No. 2 mixed 1 19 @ 1 20

LOUISVILLE.  
FLOUR—Winter patent 3 75 @ 4 00  
GRAIN—Wheat—No. 2 red 87 1/2 @ 88 1/2  
Corn—Mixed 2 15 @ 2 16  
Oats—Mixed 2 15 @ 2 16  
PORK—Mess 7 75 @ 7 80  
LARD—Steam 3 90 @ 3 92 1/2

## Southern Homes in Texas.

A great development is now going on in the Coast Country of Texas, especially that portion known as the "Diamond district." This is a section with Houston and Galveston at the north and south points of the Diamond, the west side being bounded by the Gulf, Colorado & Santa Fe Railroad and the east side by Buffalo bayou, San Jacinto bay and Galveston bay. Less than four years ago this was a great cow pasture, being one of the richest grazing countries on the face of the globe. Only a few isolated small farms existed, but they were producing phenomenal results, not only with the southern staples of corn, cotton, oats and sugar, but more particularly with early crops and vegetables. In fact it was demonstrated beyond any doubt that the net revenue produced yearly from ten or twenty acres would equal and in many cases exceed that of the ordinary quarter section in the north. People of all trades and professions in the north were attracted toward south Texas by the successful result of the lotteries at Galveston, which increased the depth of the water in that harbor to more than twenty-seven feet, deep enough for the largest vessels and the rapid advance of commercial prosperity in both Houston and Galveston. These people were not slow to take the agricultural possibilities in the Diamond district above referred to, and the results of the past four years, depressing as they had been financially speaking, had been astounding. Houston has doubled her population. Galveston has done nearly as well, and the intermediate country is dotted throughout the entire Diamond district with hundreds of small farms in the highest state of cultivation. Railroad and water facilities are ample and reasonable, and the inhabitants of that district are within an hour's ride of the two largest as well as the Metropolitan cities of Texas. Within its borders have grown the prosperous little cities of La Porte, Webster, Alvin, etc., which are attracting the attention of the whole world. The climatic and healthful conditions are all that could be asked for, and it is expected that within a very few years it will be the garden spot of the United States.

When some men get hurt they take so much pleasure in telling about it that they do not seem to mind the injury. — Atchison Globe.

## The Livery of Biliousness.

Is pronounced yellow. It is visible in the countenance and eyeballs. It is accompanied with uneasiness beneath the right ribs and shoulder blades, sick headache, nausea and irregularity of the bowels. To the removal of each and all of these discomforts, as well as their cause, Hostetter's Stomach Bitters is admirably adapted. This pre-eminent family medicine also remedies malarial, rheumatic and kidney complaints, nervousness and debility. It promotes appetite and sleep.

No matter how many times some people look at your clock, they always ask if it is right. — Washington (D. C.) Democrat.

## No-To-Bac For Fifty Cents.

Over 400,000 cured. Why not let No-To-Bac regulate or remove your desire for tobacco. Saves money, makes health and manhood. Cure guaranteed, 50c and \$1.00, all druggists.

It sounds real funny to hear an old physician called Mister. — Washington Democrat.

Fits stopped free and permanently cured. No fits after first day's use of Dr. Kline's Great Nerve Restorer. Free trial bottle & treatise. Dr. KLINE, 933 Arch st., Phila., Pa.

You have a place in society peculiarly your own; endeavor to find out where it is and keep it. — Chicago Standard.

I am entirely cured of hemorrhage of lungs by Piso's Cure for Consumption. — LOUISA LINDAMAN, Bethany, Mo., Jan. 8, '94.

It is better to be nobody who amounts to something than to be a somebody and accomplish nothing.

The Public Awards the Palm to Hale's Honey of Horehound and Tar for coughs, Pike's Toothache Drops Cure in one minute.

Turn a buzzard loose anywhere, and it will immediately go to looking for a carcass. — Ram's Horn.

At once use St. Jacobs Oil for sprains. At once it will cure.

Lots of people tell you they are hustlers, when they know very well they are only bories. — Washington Democrat.

CASCARETS stimulate liver, kidneys and bowels. Never sicken, weaken or gripe, 10c.

Men have better health than the women, because they sigh less when things go wrong, and kick more. — Atchison Globe.

Are you bruised? Use St. Jacobs Oil and you won't be long.

A MAN never gets too old to talk silly about his love affairs. — Washington Democrat.

When bilious or constive, eat a Cascaret, candy cathartic, cure guaranteed, 10c, 25c.

What a difference between the woman you hate and the woman you love!

With a rub or two lambag is often cured by St. Jacobs Oil.

If you want your grave kept in order be good to an old maid before you die.

## Scoff and Cough.

The man who scoffs at the friendly advice, to "take something for that cough," will keep on coughing until he changes his mind or changes his earthly residence. A great many scoffers have been converted by the use of the standard cough remedy of the past half century, — Ayer's Cherry Pectoral. But some are scoffing and coughing yet. They wheeze with asthma, bark with bronchitis or groan with the gripe. Singular, isn't it, the number of stubborn people, who persist in gambling, with health and perhaps life as the stake, when they might be effectually cured of cough, cold or lung trouble, by a few doses of

## Ayer's Cherry Pectoral.

More particulars about Pectoral in Ayer's Curebook, 100 pages. Sent free. J. C. Ayer Co., Lowell, Mass.

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